

Message Text

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 VO-03 L-03 CIAE-00

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R 211308Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1539

C O N F L I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 7000

FOR: SCA, ATTENTION MR. RYDER FORBES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, AORG (UNHCR), CI, CVIS,)

SUBJ: REFUGEE STATUS: RODION RODRIGUEZ ALIAGA

REF: SANTIAGO 5664

1. RODRIGUEZ APPEARED AT EMBASSY ON DECEMBER 14, 1970 CLAIMING TO BE ENGINEERING STUDENT WHO HAD SERVED AS SECRETARY FOR SPORTS OF LOCAL UNIVERSITY FEDERATION (FUL) UNTIL APRIL 1970 AND THEN AS A REPRESENTATIVE ON COMITE CENTRAL REVOLUNCIONARIO. RODRIGUEZ EXPRESSED DESIRE TO "COLLABORATE" WITH EMBASSY BY INFORMING OF STUDENT PLANS TO ATTACK U.S. PERSONNEL OR INSTALLATIONS. HE ASSERTED THAT, ALTHOUGH A MARXIST BY CONVICTION. HE HAD DEVELOPED BOTH PERSONAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEADERSHIP OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. EMBASSY RESPONSE TO RODRIGUEZ INITIATIVE WAS LIMITED TO EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE CONVERSATIONS IN FUTURE.

2. RODRIGUEZ SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED EMBASSY AGAIN ON DECEMBER 23, 1970 TO STATE THAT HE WAS GOING TO SANTIAGO, CHILE, IN MID-JANUARY 1971. SUBJECT ALSO INDICATED HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY GUILLERMO RICHTER, SECRETARY OF CULTURE OF BOLIVIAN UNIVERSITY CONFEDERATION (CUB), TO CARRY CERTAIN VERBAL QUESTIONS TO EXILED ARMY OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (EL,) LEADER "CHATO" PEREDO IN CHILE AND TO BRING BACK ANSWERS. ONLY
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OTHER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN EMBASSY FIL ON SUBJECT IS NOTE

OF JUNE 24, 1971 THAT RODRIGUEZ WAS THEN ALLEGEDLY IN CHILE CONTACTING U.S. EMBASSY THERE.

3. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, ABOVE LIMITED EVIDENCE DOES NOT PROVIDE PERSUASIVE CASE SUPPORTING SUBJECT'S CLAIM THAT HE WOULD SUFFER PERSECUTION IN BOLIVIA ON ACCOUNT OF HIS POLITICAL BELIEFS. OTHER FORMER UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVISTS OF MARXIST CONVICTIONS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO RESIDE IN BOLIVIA BY PRESENT GOVERNMENT, PROVIDED THEY DO NOT ENGAGE IN SIGNIFICANT OVERT OR CLANDESTINE POLITICAL ACTIVITY. ALLEGED STATEMENT BY BOLIVIAN CONSULATE GENERAL CITED IN PARAGRAPH TWO REFTEL ALSO NOT DECISIVE, AS EVOLVING GOB ATTITUDE ON POLITICAL EXILES SINCE JANUARY 1973. HAS PERMITTED SEVERAL LEFTIST EXILES TO RETURN TO BOLIVIA.

4. CRITICAL PIECE OF EVIDENCE, ON WHICH EMBASSY SANTIAGO SHOULD QUESTION RODRIGUEZ, IS EXTENT OF HIS LINKS WITH SUBVERSIVE ELN GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION. IF RODRIGUEZ DID ACT IN ANY WAY AS LIAISON WITH ELN LEADER "CHATO" PEREDO, HE COULD FACE SEVERE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES UPON RETURNING TO BOLIVIA.
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